Directions: Independent or cooperative reading assignment and questionnaire.

1. What should observers do first when learning and practicing observational astronomy?  In what other situations would you similarly familiarize yourself with your surroundings first?  
  
2. What can you use to scale the sky when observing?  Provide some examples.  
  
3. Name and describe the "pointer stars".  
  
4. What is meant by the phrase "star lore"?  
  
5. Most people recognize the Big Dipper as a constellation - explain why this is incorrect.  
  
6. Describe why Polaris is unique among other stars in the sky.  
  
7. Why do the leaves of trees turn red during the autumn months according to Native American star lore?  
  
8. How are star trail photographs created?  
  
9. Describe some limiting factors for telescopic viewing of the sky.  
  
10. What kinds of things do star charts show?  Why do you think there are various sized dots representing the stars?  
  
11. What are declination and right ascension lines?  
  
12. What is meant by altitude and azimuth?  What is the drawback to using this system to describe the location of objects in the sky?  
  
13. Explain the ways that the human eyes change to become dark adapted.  
  
14. What is an easy way to better look at a faint object in the night sky?